

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method of transporting an emulsion explosive down a vertical conduit having an inlet provided at the top of the conduit and an outlet provided at the bottom of the conduit, which method comprises feeding the emulsion explosive into the inlet of the conduit and contacting the emulsion explosive with means for dissipating potential energy released by the emulsion explosive as it is transported down the conduit so that turbulence in the emulsion explosive at the outlet of the conduit is reduced in order to reduce or avoid breakdown of the emulsion explosive and/or changes in viscosity and/or changes in droplet size of the emulsion explosive.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the conduit is a pipe.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the pipe is from 100 to 300 mm in diameter.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the pipe is from 100 to 600 m in length.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein no change in viscosity of the emulsion explosive is observed after transportation of the emulsion explosive down the conduit.

7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the droplet size of the emulsion explosive is unaffected by transportation down the conduit.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein before being

transported the emulsion explosive has a viscosity of from 2,000 to 200,000 cP at 25°C.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the means for dissipating potential energy is an energy dissipating device which prevents potential energy associated with the liquid product from being converted to kinetic energy within the liquid product.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the means for dissipating potential energy is a pump or turbine the mechanism of which is actuated by movement of the liquid product through the pump or turbine and/or by contact of the liquid product with components of the pump or turbine.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the potential energy released by the liquid product is converted to electrical, mechanical and/or hydraulic energy by the pump or turbine and dissipated in this form.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the means for dissipating potential energy is provided at the bottom of the conduit close to the outlet thereof.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the emulsion explosive is being transported from a surface storage facility to an underground storage facility.

15. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the pipe has a diameter of 100-300 mm.

16. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the viscosity of the emulsion explosive at the outlet of the conduit is no more than about 5,000 cPa at 25° greater than the viscosity of the emulsion explosive that is fed into the inlet.